

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1428

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 3834

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, AR

SUBJECT: NEW ECONOMY MINISTER ADDRESSES NATION

1. JUNE 2, NEW ECONOMY MINISTER CELESTINO RODRIGO MADE RADIO AND TV ADDRESS TO NATION TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF AND OUTLINE GENERAL PRINCIPLES THAT WILL GUIDE FUTURE POLICY. MOST INTERESTING POINTS IN SPEECH AS FOLLOWS:

--HE DEFINED HIMSELF AS "PERONISTA DE PRIMERA HORA" AND MADE IMPORTANT SYMBOLIC REFERENCE TO LOPEZ REGA IN OPENING PART OF SPEECH.

--HE EMPHASIZED POINT THAT ARGENTINA IS ONE OF MOST PRIVILEGED COUNTRIES IN WORLD WITH ITS ABUNDANT NATURAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES. NOTWITHSTANDING, HE ADMITTED THERE ARE MANY PROBLEMS IN CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION WHICH CAN BE SOLVED IF ADEQUATE MEASURES TAKEN. (OPTIMISTIC TONE CONTRASTING TO RECENT CAUTION OF GOMEZ MORALES.)

--HE SAID THERE ARE TWO FUNDAMENTAL CAUSES OF PRESENT ECONOMIC DISTORTIONS WHICH ALL PEOPLE MUST RECOGNIZE AS ENEMIES. THESE ARE VIOLENCE AND NO LESS IMPORTANT, SPECULATION. WHILE FIGHT AGAINST VIOLENCE NOT WITHIN ORBIT OF ECONOMY MINISTRY, RODRIGO SAID FIGHT AGAINST SPECULATION WOULD BE PURSUED WITH GREAT VIGOR.

--HE PROMISED DIALOGUE WITH ALL SECTORS IN POLICY OF

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COOPERATION AND CONCERTATION.

--HE REITERATED POLICIES WILL BE BASED ON "REALITY"
(PROBABLY TO COUNTERACT GOMEZ MORALES MORE TECHNOCRATIC
APPROACH).
--HE SAID MAJOR PROBLEM FACING ARGENTINA IS INFLATION
WHICH HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY FISCAL DEFICIT. HE SAID
DEFICIT THIS YEAR COULD REACH TOTAL OF 60,000 MILLION
PESOS WHEN SALARY INCREASES IMPLEMENTED.
--HE EXHORTED BUSINESSMEN AND LABOR TO INCREASE
PRODUCTIVITY, WHILE AT SAME TIME URGING PUBLIC TO
REDUCE UNNECESSARY CONSUMPTION AND INCREASE SAVINGS
TO DIMINISH INFLATION AND INCREASE EXPORTABLE SURPLUSES.
--CONCERNING FOREIGN INVESTMENT, HE SAID HE WILL
MODIFY CURRENT LEGISLATION IF APPROPRIATE.
--HE COMMITTED HIMSELF TO BOLD NEW MEASURES IN NEAR
FUTURE TO RESOLVE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

2. COMMENT: SPEECH QUITE GENERAL AND DOESN'T OFFER MANY
CLUES AS TO FUTURE POLICY. ITS POLITICAL TONE AND SIGNIFICANT
SOCIAL EMPHASIS CONTRAST WITH GOMEZ MORALES' MORE STRAIGHT-
FORWARD STYLE.
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